


**KATSUHIRO OTOMO**





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# AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 18

## AMID THE RUINS



## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

**T**wenty-thirty. The world stands poised at the edge of World War IV. An explosion of thermo-nuclear proportions has been set off in **Neo-Tokyo**. The world, particularly the superpowers, wonder what has happened. In **Neo-Tokyo** in a section known as the "old city", a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encountered **Number 26**, a child named **Takashi** who used extraordinary telekinetic abilities to injure **Tetsuo**, one of Kaneda's close friends.

As a result **Kaneda** and **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by a man known only as the **Colonel** and an underground resistance group bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities.

Among the resistance, **Kaneda** meets **Kay**—a girl he alternately maddens and tries to seduce—and Kay's "brother", **Ryu**. Other important resistance members include Ryu's superior, the opposition party leader **Nezu**, and a powerful religious

leader with strong precognitive gifts, **Lady Miyako**.

The **Colonel** has a number of children like **Number 26** under his control. Each child possesses a distinct set of psychic talents and is identified by a number marked on the hand. At one time, **Lady Miyako** was **Number 19** in this series.

**Number 28** is **Akira**, so powerful that since the war he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep.

The Colonel's staff conducts experiments which awaken tremendous telepathic potential in **Tetsuo**, who is redubbed **Number 41**. Able to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree, murdering one of Kaneda's friends and even attacking **Kaneda**. Then, followed by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, **Tetsuo** sets out in search of **Akira**, whose powers he fears may rival his own.

**Tetsuo** repels soldiers armed with the most sophisticated weaponry. The scientists monitoring Akira's cryogenic sleep realize that even in hibernation, Akira's power is responding to Tetsuo's psychic energy. When **Tetsuo** reaches Akira's resting place, the cryogenic chamber cracks from within and **Akira**—dazed and docile following his long sleep—emerges.



Akira



The Colonel



Tetsuo



Masaru



Terrified of what may occur, the **Colonel** summons the powerful SOL military satellite and orders that its laser cannon be fired at **Tetsuo** and **Akira**. The two are separated by the blasts. **Akira** is saved by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, but **Tetsuo** is less fortunate. The laser strikes his left arm.

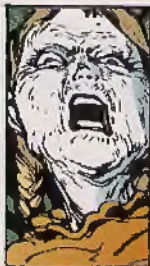
**Neo-Tokyo** is placed in a state of military emergency following the disaster. "Caretaker robots" patrol the streets, dealing harshly with looters and restoring order. Discredited and made a scapegoat following the disaster, the **Colonel**—who successfully conceals the truth about what has occurred despite leaks to the media—decides to use the emergency as an excuse to hunt down and destroy his enemies. With the aid of his inner circle, the **Colonel** stages a successful coup d'état.

**Nezu**, planning to exploit

**Akira** for his own purposes, kidnaps the child and orders his staff to kill **Kaneda**, **Kay**, and **Chiyoko**, who nevertheless manage to escape and free **Akira**. He is, however, stolen from them again, this time by **Sakaki**, **Miki**, and **Mozu**—young psychics trained by **Lady Miyako**, who now knows that **Nezu** has betrayed her. The **Colonel**, with his troops and his psychic children, is also frantically trying to find **Akira** before he fully awakens. On the **Colonel's** orders, **Takashi** kills **Mozu** during a psychic showdown. **Nezu** corners **Sakaki** and **Akira**, but before he can do them any harm, **Miki** sacrifices her life, enabling the pair to escape. **Sakaki** hides **Akira** in a dumpster. There he is found by **Ryu**—one of the few people who doesn't recognize the child. **Ryu** and **Akira** encounter **Nezu**, who blurts out the boy's name.



Chiyoko



Kiyoko



Seer



Kay

**Ryu** realizes that his former master is a traitor. When **Nezu** tries to kill them, **Ryu** guns him down and leaves him for dead.

As **Sakaki** and **Ryu** fight for control of **Akira**, they are suddenly joined by **Kaneda**, **Kay** and **Chiyoko**. Then all six of them are surrounded by the Colonel's troops. **Sakaki** makes a last ditch effort to escape and is killed, her spirit embraced by **Lady Miyako** as she dies.

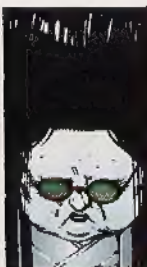
**Takashi** fondly greets **Akira** and reintroduces him to their fellow psychics **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**. Then **Nezu**, dying and determined on revenge, arrives and tries to kill **Akira**, killing **Takashi** instead.

The trauma of **Takashi's** death galvanizes **Akira**, who fully awakens and unleashes a light blast powerful enough to devastate the entire city. Acting quickly, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** sweep most of the people in the area upward, into the shelter of a skyscraper. The entire resistance group is separated, and **Kaneda** is last seen vanishing towards the sky. In the wake of the disaster, **Lady Miyako** opens her temple and offers shelter and comfort to those in need.

Afterwards, as **Akira** sits

alone, telekinetically playing with bits of rubble, **Tetsuo** finally reappears. **Neo-Tokyo** is completely cut off from the outside world, and in the western part of the city the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units that destroy caretaker robots and conquer military and medical relief parties sent from the outside world. In addition, **Tetsuo** conducts deadly tests on special followers, hoping to find more psychics fit for training. **The Empire** is eventually infiltrated by teams of spies sent from the outside to learn the truth about what is happening in the city.

**Masaru** and **Kiyoko** are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and helps to channel the powers of all psychics. **Kay** is trying to treat them with drugs she's been able to steal and get on the Black Market. Following an injection, **Kiyoko**, whose gift is precognition, tells **Kay** that she must seek out **Number 19**.



Lady Miyako



Lt. Yamada

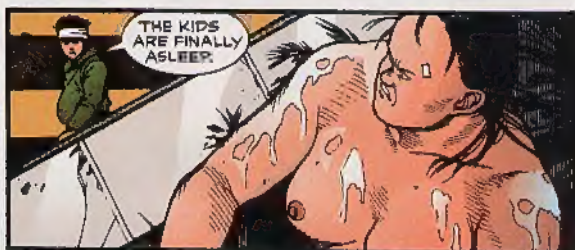


Tetsuo's Aide




Ryu






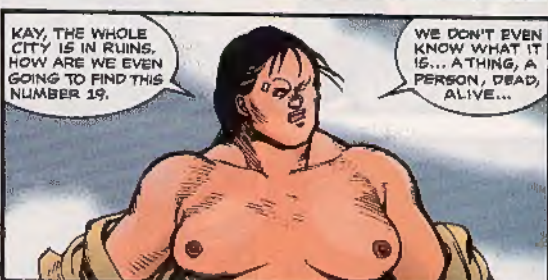




DID YOU  
FIND OUT  
ANYTHING  
MORE ABOUT  
THIS  
"NUMBER  
19"?



ALL SHE SAID WAS  
THAT I SHOULD ASK  
NUMBER 19 FOR  
HELP.




KAY, THE WHOLE  
CITY IS IN RUINS.  
HOW ARE WE EVEN  
GOING TO FIND THIS  
NUMBER 19.


WE DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHAT IT  
IS... A THING, A  
PERSON, DEAD,  
ALIVE...



I KNOW  
WHERE TO  
GO...



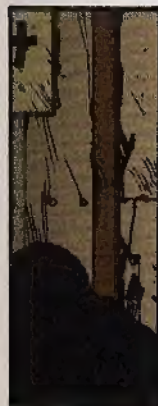
WAIT A MINUTE!  
DO YOU KNOW  
WHERE THAT IS? IT'S  
LADY MIYAKO'S  
TERRITORY.



I KNOW. BUT  
SHE SAID IF I  
GET THERE I'LL  
FIND NUMBER  
19.



LET'S  
HURRY.



YOU'RE DRUNK,  
AREN'T YOU?

WHERE HAVE  
YOU BEEN FOR  
THE PAST THREE  
DAYS? DID YOU  
FIND OUR  
FRIENDS?

WHADDAYA TO  
MEAN  
"OUR"  
FRIENDS?

ISN'T THAT  
WHERE YOU  
WERE?  
LOOKING  
FOR THEM?

Scrape

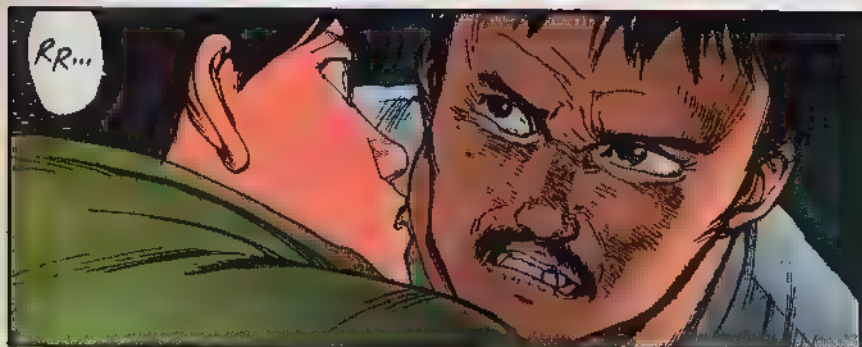
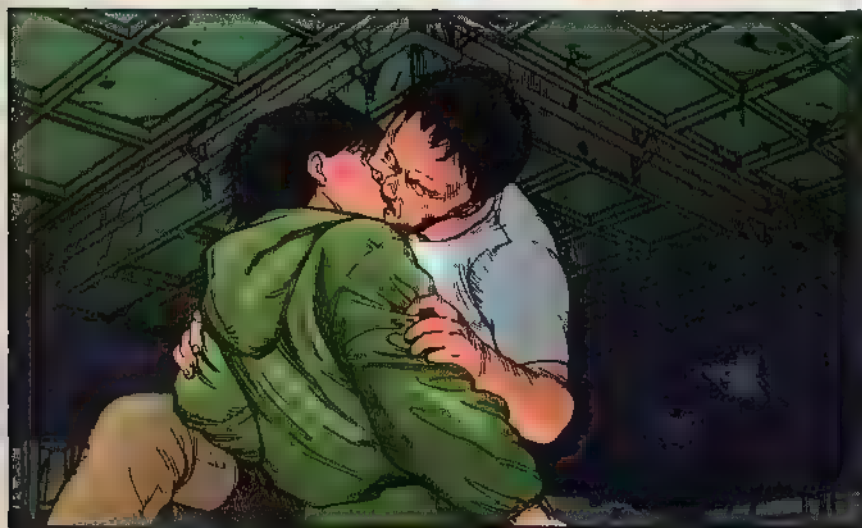
LET  
ME  
SEE

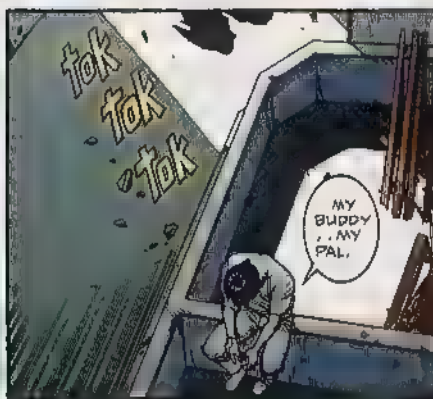
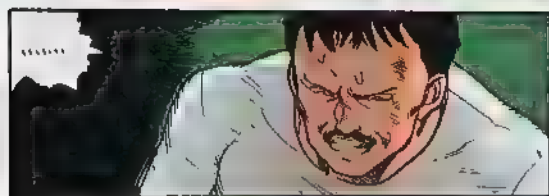
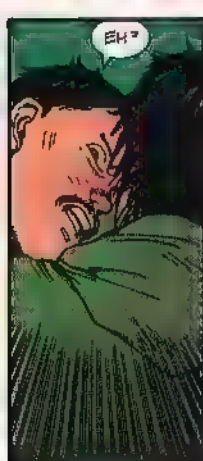
I CAN HANDLE  
THIS ONE

HMM  
KAY?

AND  
YOU  
BETTER  
TAKE  
SOMETHING  
A LITTLE  
LIGHTER









I-I... LOVE HIM!



I-I HAVE FOR A LONG TIME

IF THERE'S ANYTHING HE NEEDS, ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP HIM,



WHAT?!



SMACK



DON'T BE A FOOL! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR PITY ON HIM!

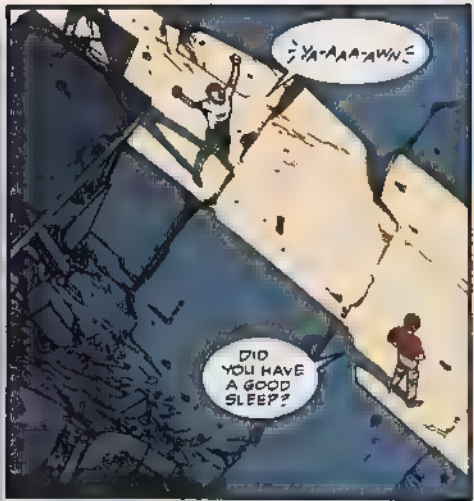


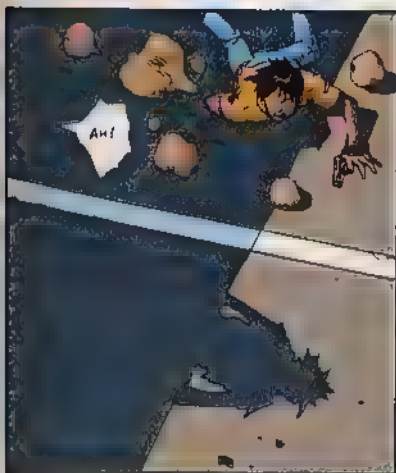
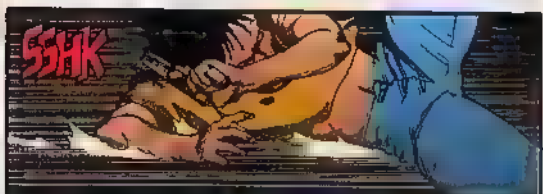
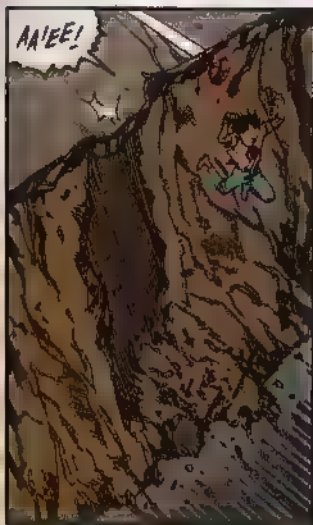
ALL MY FRIENDS, ALL OF THEM,

HE'S JUST A DRUNKEN BUM!

THEY'RE ALL DEAD.







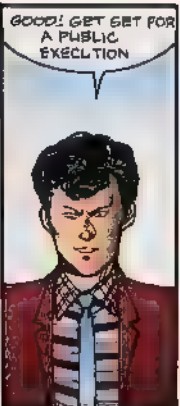


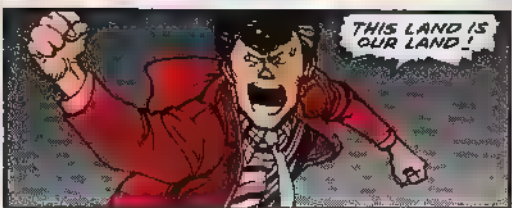
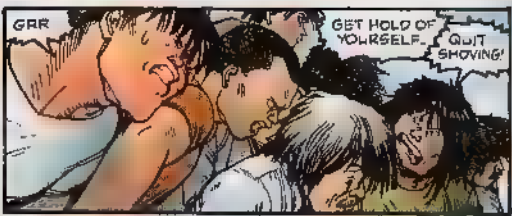
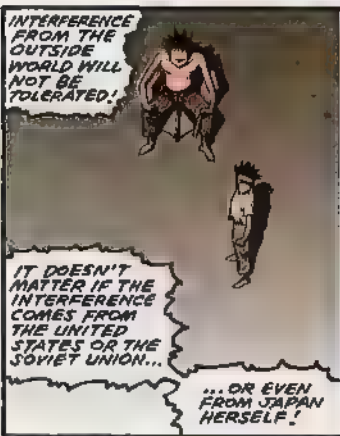
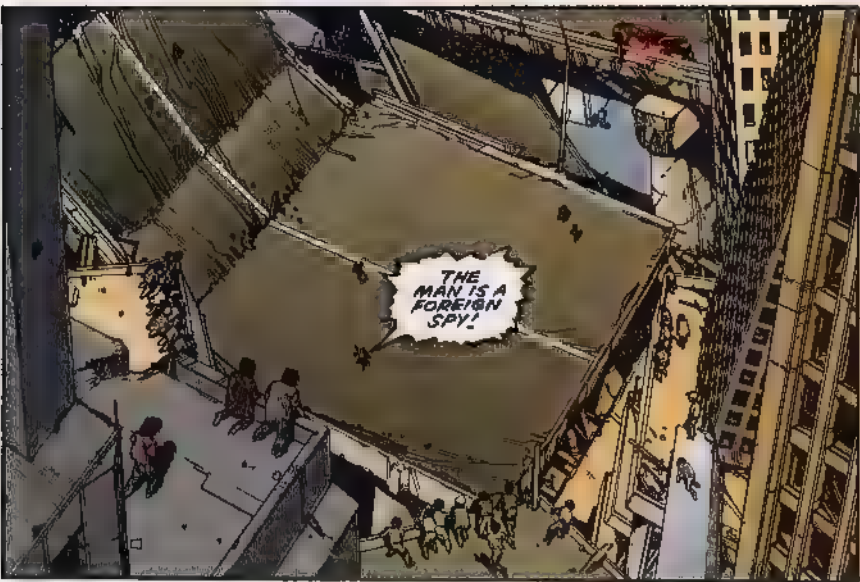


WELL? DID YOU  
TAKE HIM ALIVE?



GOOD! GET SET FOR  
A PUBLIC  
EXECUTION

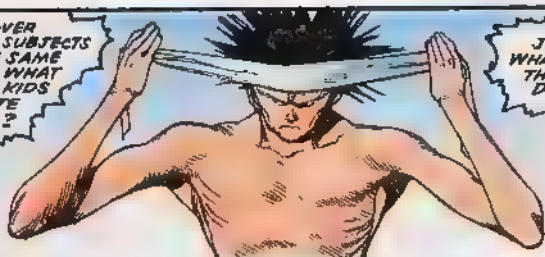




OVER AND OVER AGAIN, OUR SUBJECTS ASK US THE SAME QUESTION-- WHAT MAKES THE KIDS IN THE ELITE SO SPECIAL?

JUST WHAT CAN THEY DO?

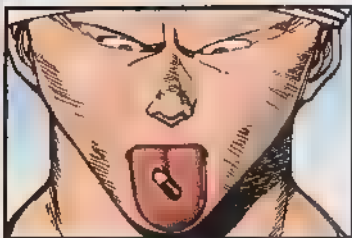
YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK!



NOW..

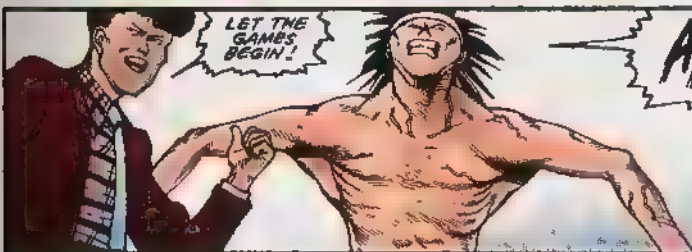
SEE FOR YOURSELF!

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.

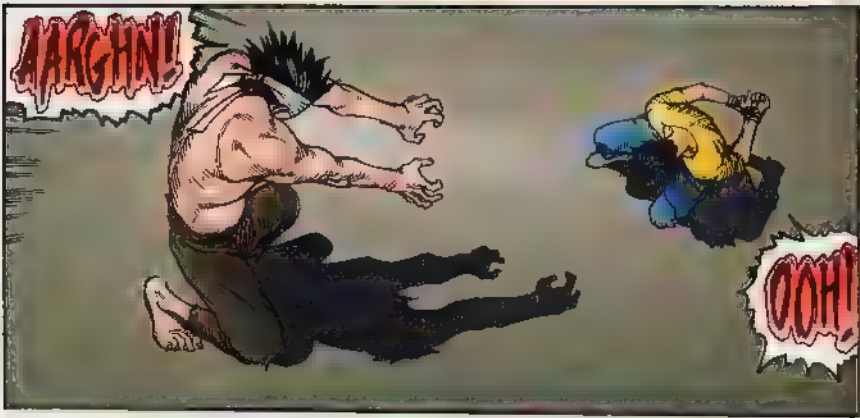
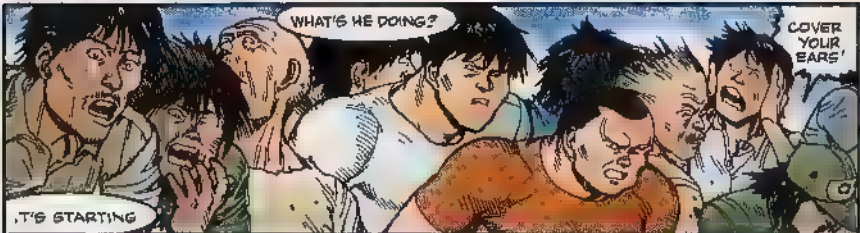


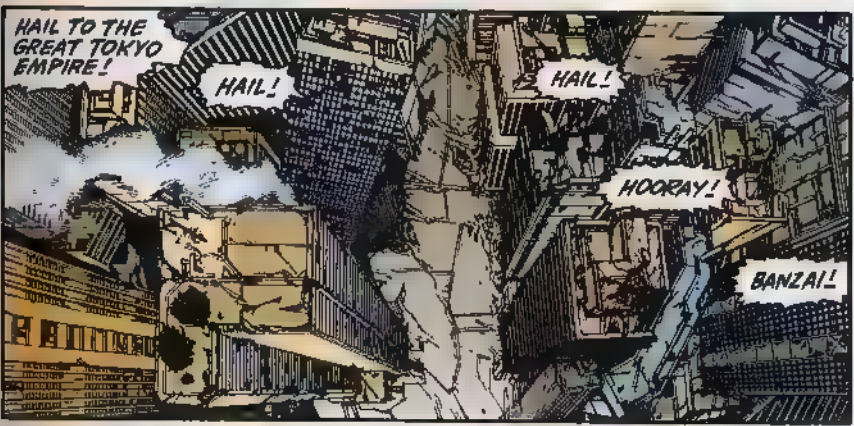
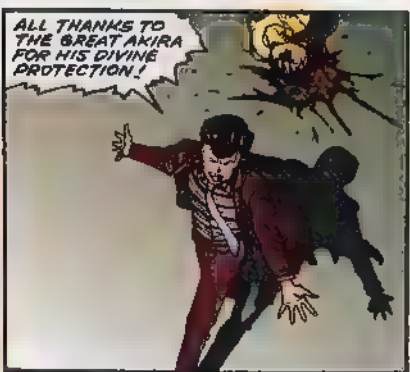
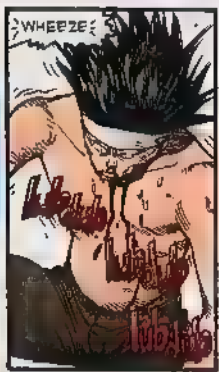
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

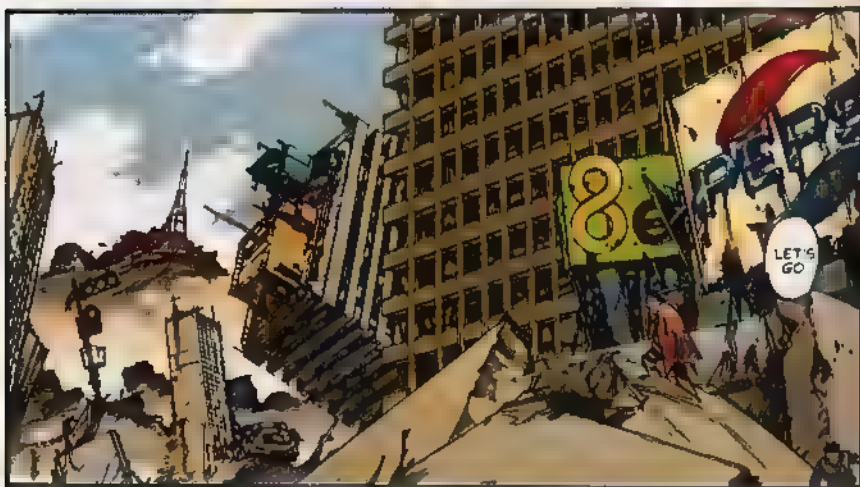
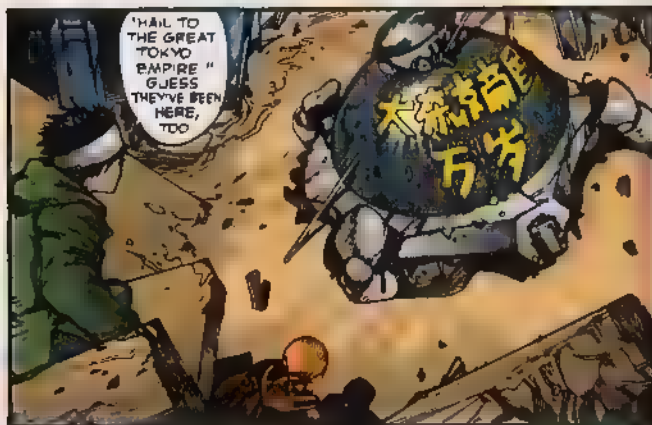
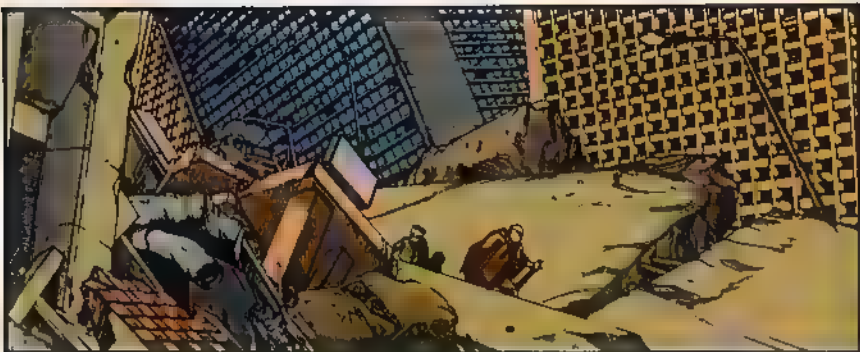
AARGH!!



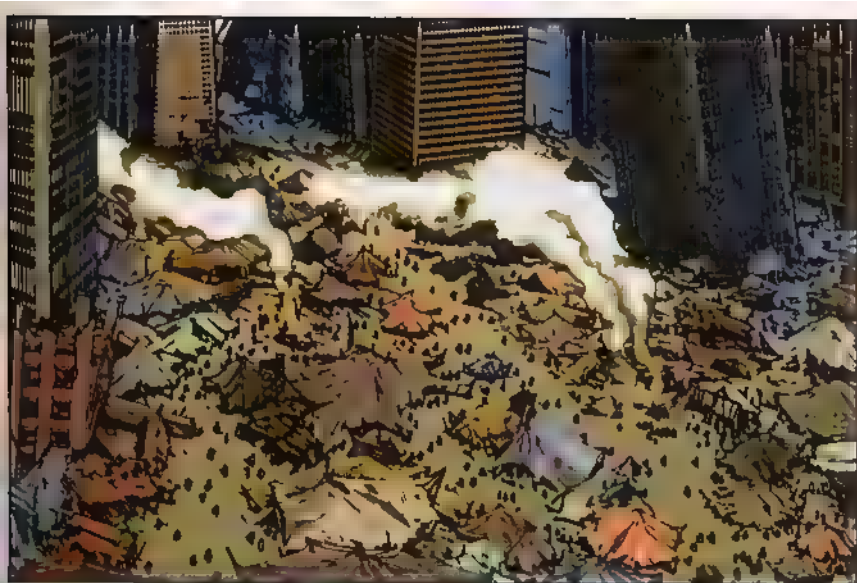


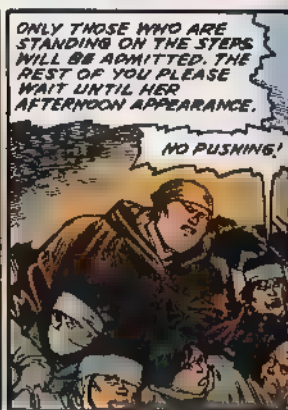
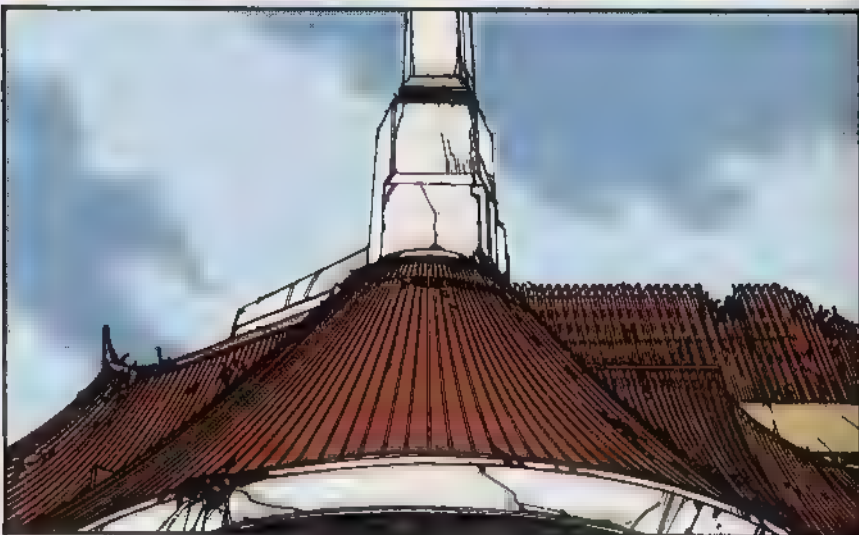
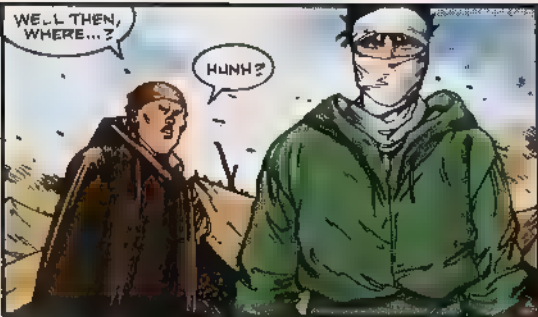


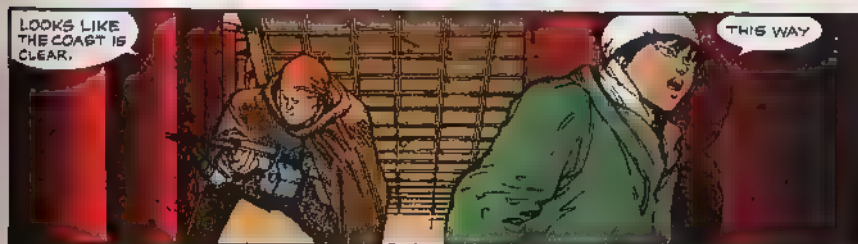




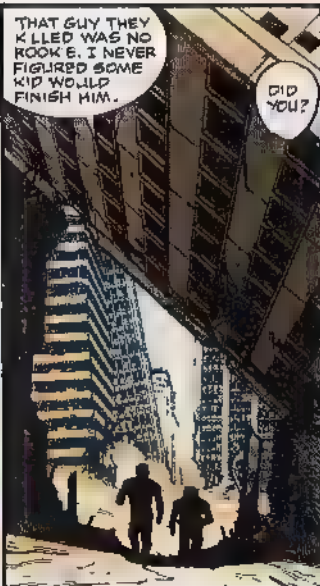






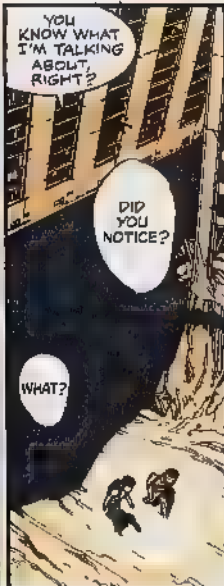






THAT GUY THEY  
KILLED WAS NO  
ROOK E. I NEVER  
FIGURED SOME  
KID WOULD  
FINISH HIM.

DID  
YOU?



YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
I'M TALKING  
ABOUT,  
RIGHT?

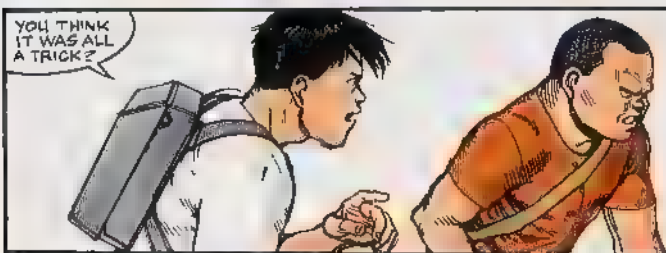
DID  
YOU  
NOTICE?

WHAT?



THAT BIG, UGLY  
APE WAS TAKING  
SOMETHING.

YOU MEAN  
SOME KIND OF DRUG?  
I SAW HIM TAKE  
SOMETHING OFF  
THE TRAY.



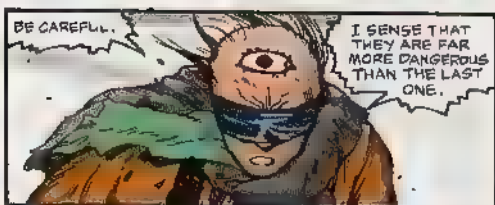
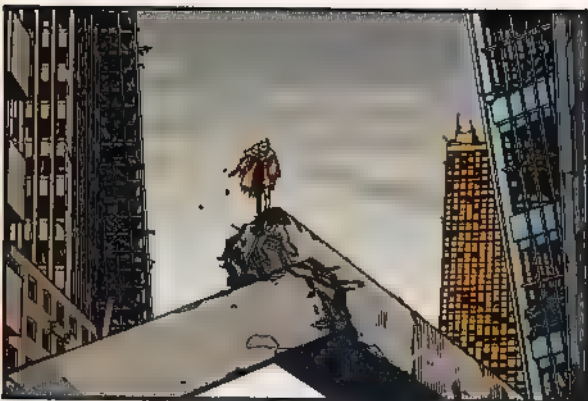
YOU THINK  
IT WAS ALL  
A TRICK?


NO! I'M NOT  
SURE LET'S WATCH  
OURSELVES.



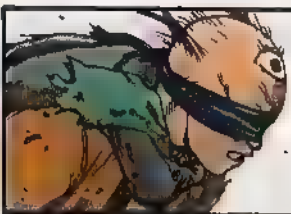
THE WHOLE  
WORLD'S GONE  
CRAZY.

IT DOESN'T  
PAY TO FORGET  
THAT.





THEY ARE  
SHORTSIGHTED!



THE PATH THEY  
FOLLOW WILL  
TAKE THEM RIGHT  
INTO YOUR  
HANDS!



WHAT  
WAS  
THAT  
GUY?



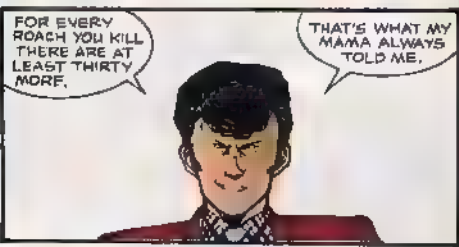
BEATS ME!



AAH!



MAH?



FOR EVERY  
ROACH YOU KILL  
THERE ARE AT  
LEAST THIRTY  
MORE.

THAT'S WHAT MY  
MAMA ALWAYS  
TOLD ME.



WE'LL  
HAVE TO  
FIGHT  
OUR  
WAY  
OUT!



RIGHT!

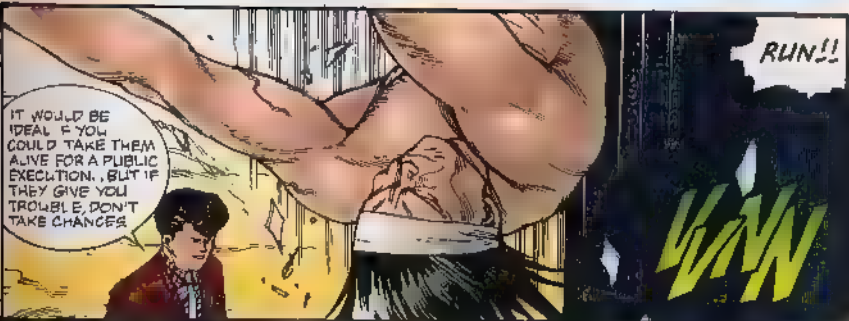


# KRASH



RUN!!

IT WOULD BE  
IDEAL IF YOU  
COULD TAKE THEM  
ALIVE FOR A PUBLIC  
EXECUTION., BUT IF  
THEY GIVE YOU  
TROUBLE, DON'T  
TAKE CHANCES



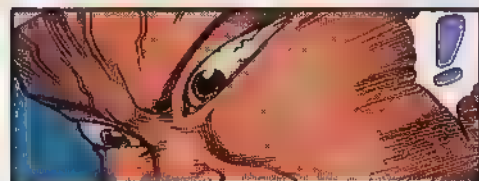
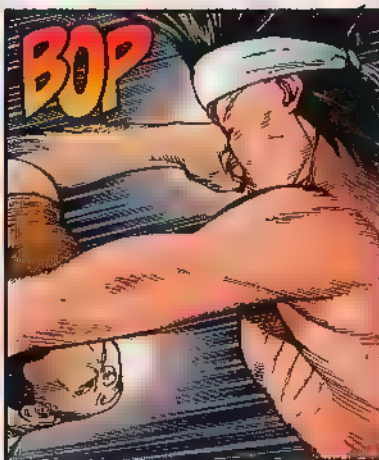
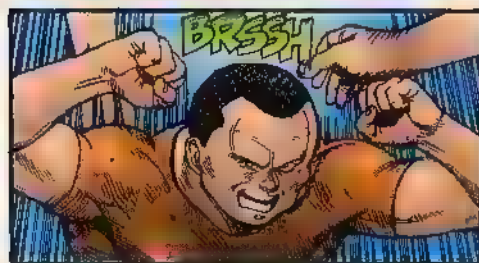
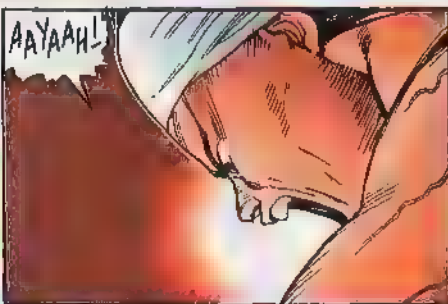
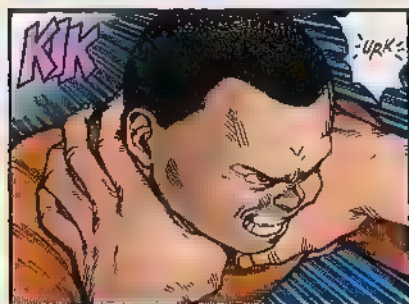
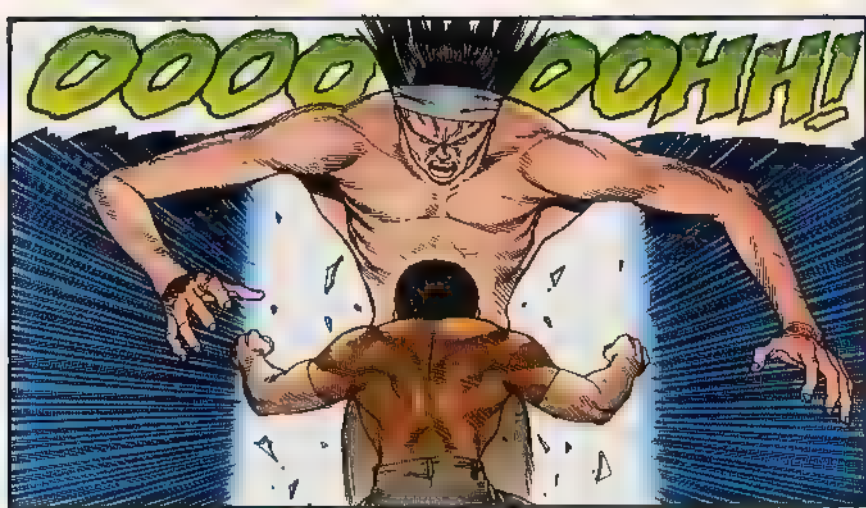
# WNN

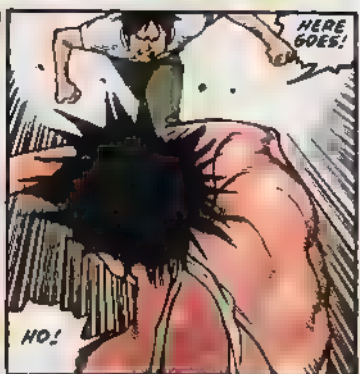
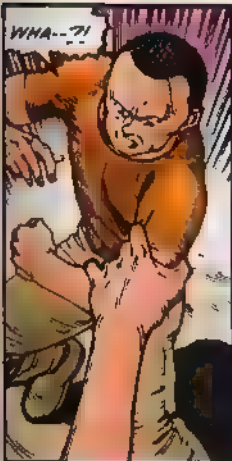
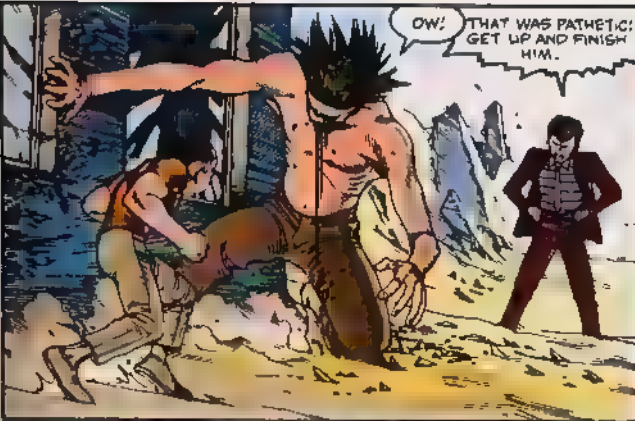


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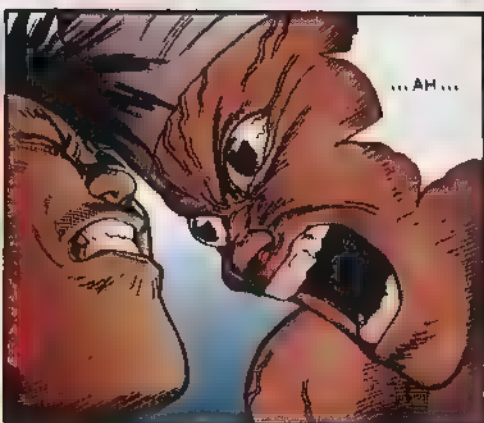
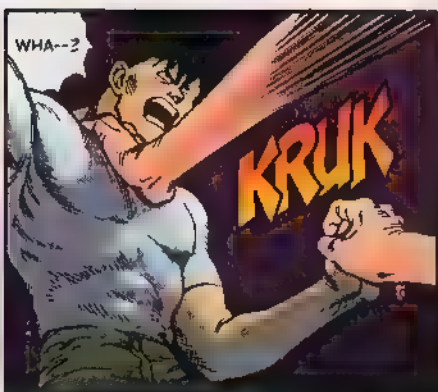
ALL  
RIGHT,  
YOU  
BASTARD,  
COME  
ON!

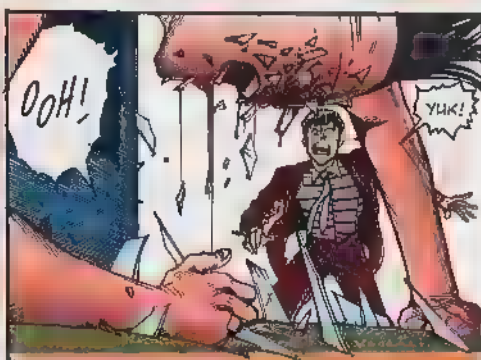
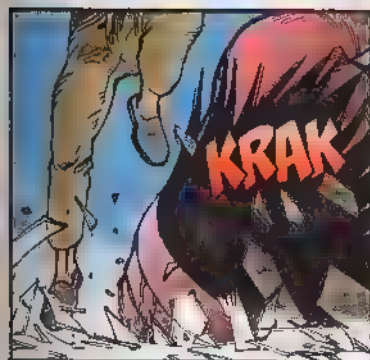


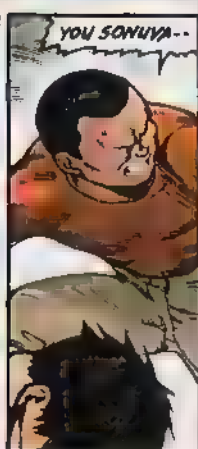
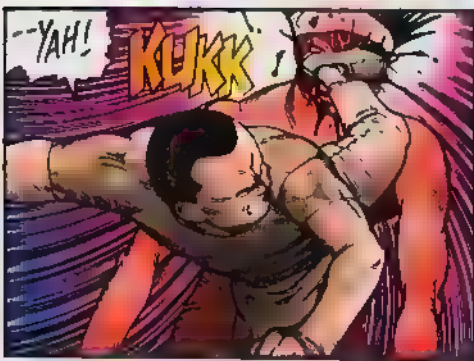
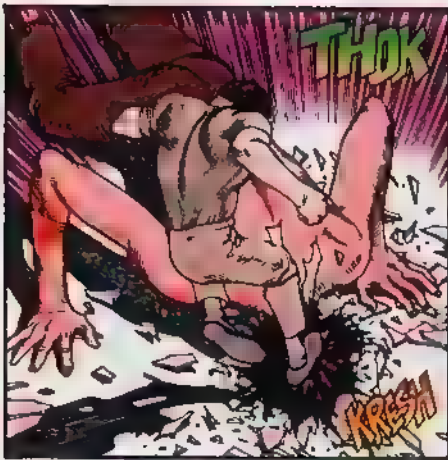












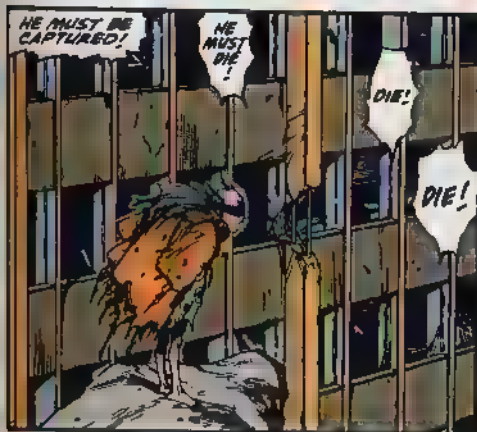
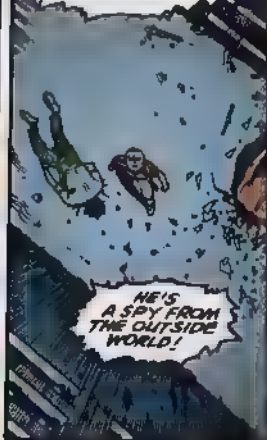




THE FOLLOWING  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
CONCERNS ALL  
CITIZENS OF  
THE GREAT  
EMPIRE!



ONE OF OUR BROTHERS  
HAS BEEN MURDERED!  
THE KILLER IS OUR  
ENEMY AND AN ENEMY  
OF THE GREAT LORD  
AKIRA!

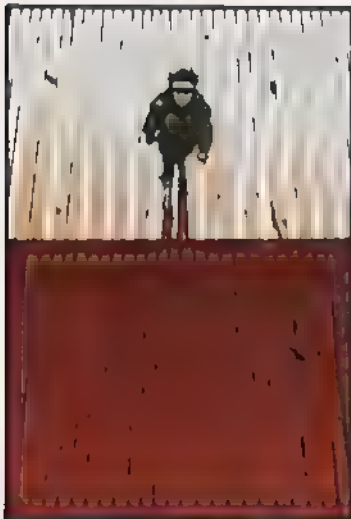


HE  
MUST  
DIE!

DIE!

DIE!





I KNEW  
YOU'D  
COME.



BUT..

...JUST WHAT  
PROOF DO I HAVE  
THAT YOU'RE REALLY  
WHO YOU SAY YOU  
ARE?

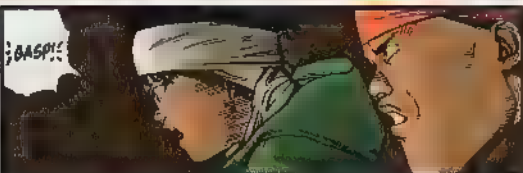


THESE EYES  
OF MINE CAN  
NO LONGER  
SEE IT...

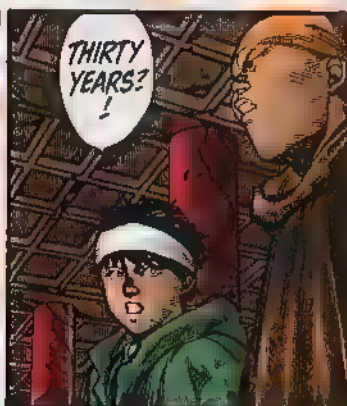
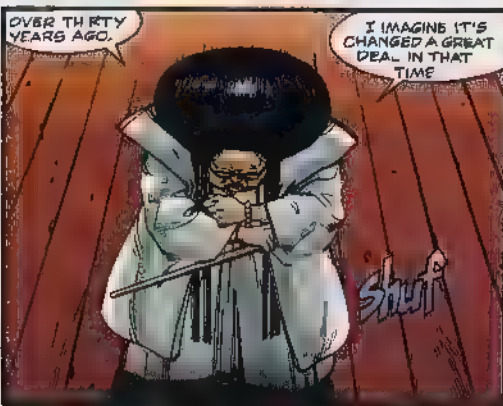
...BUT ON MY  
PALM YOU'LL  
FIND THE  
PROOF YOU  
SEEK.



GAASP!!







OUR ACQUAINTANCE WAS  
VERY SLIGHT.

AFTER A  
FEW MEETINGS,  
THEY WERE PUT  
IN ISOLATION,  
TOTALLY LOCKED  
AWAY.

IN A  
NURSERY  
THAT LOOKED  
LIKE A BIG  
GREEN-  
HOUSE

WHEN THEY ARE  
FEELING BETTER, YOU  
MUST BRING THEM TO  
SEE ME.

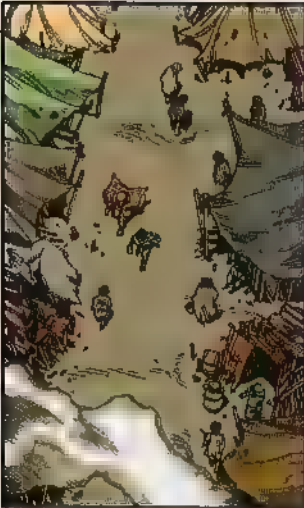
BUT,  
WHY?!

WON'T  
YOU AT  
LEAST--?

EXPLANATIONS  
CAN WAIT!

WHAT  
IS  
URGENT  
IS THAT  
THEY  
TAKE  
THAT  
MEDICINE!

200 72



KAY.

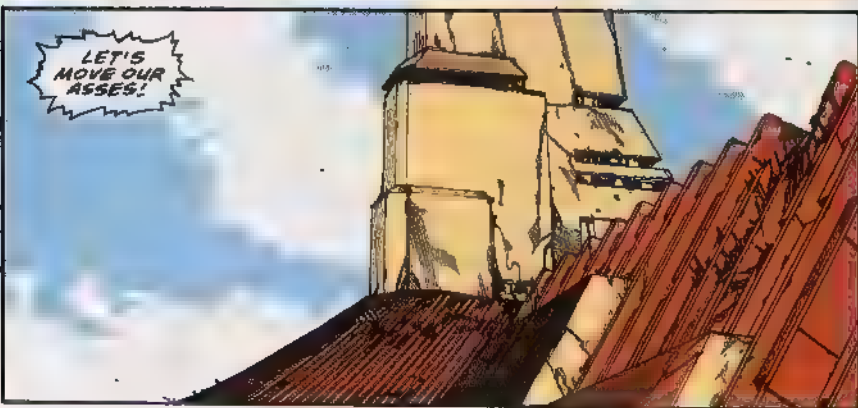
DON'T  
EVEN  
ASK!



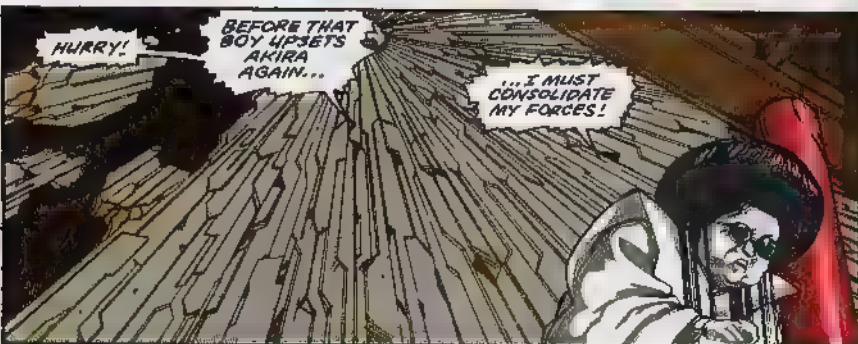
I AM  
TOTALLY  
CONFUSED!

NEVERTHELESS..

NEVERTHELESS.. ?



LET'S  
MOVE OUR  
ASSES!

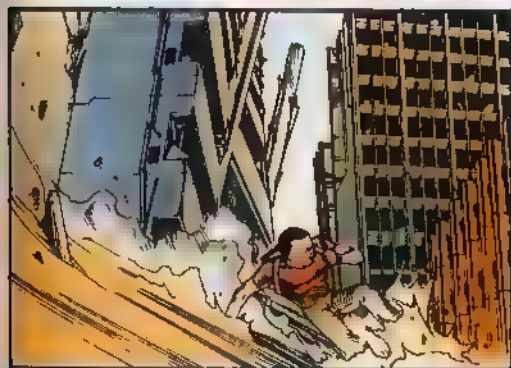


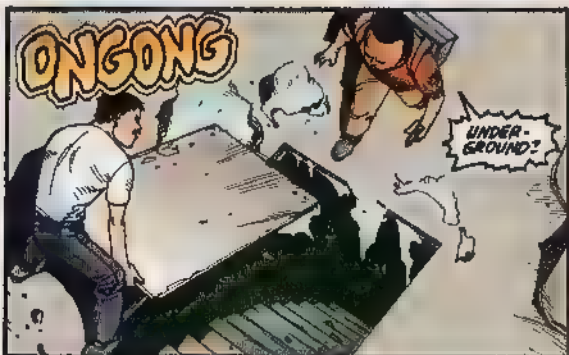
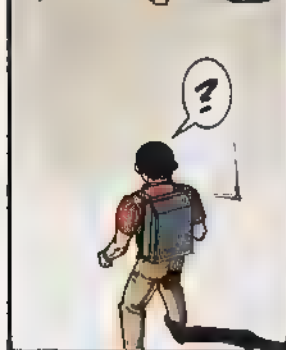
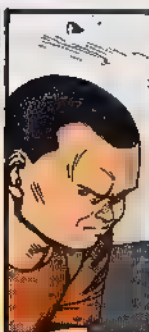
HURRY!

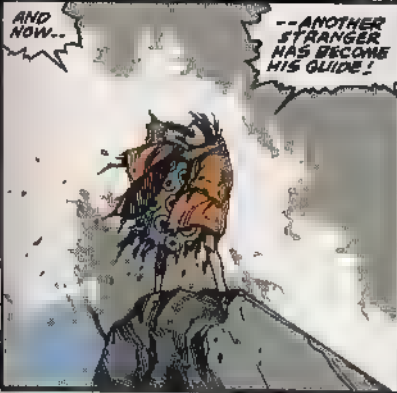
BEFORE THAT  
BOY UPSETS  
AKIRA  
AGAIN...

...I MUST  
CONSOLIDATE  
MY FORCES!







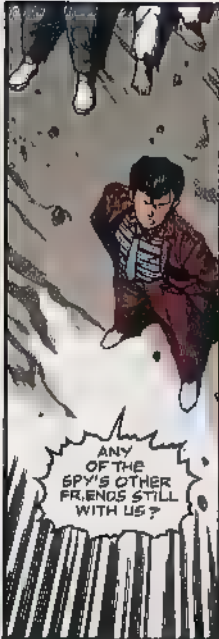


AND NOW...

-- ANOTHER STRANGER HAS BECOME HIS GUIDE!



THEY HAVE PASSED BEYOND THE RANGE OF MY VISION!



ANY OF THE SPY'S OTHER FRIENDS STILL WITH US?



I CAN'T BE CERTAIN...  
...BUT THE SPY IS WARY OF HIS NEW COMPANION.



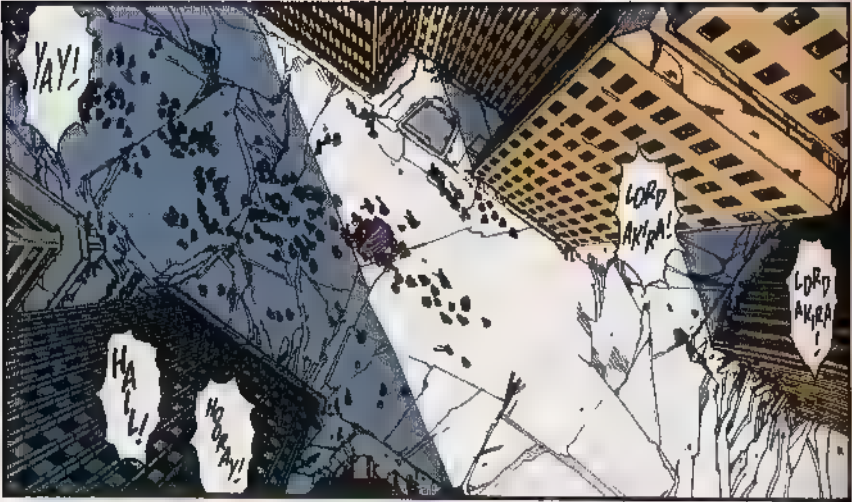
THEY DO NOT COME FROM THE SAME PLACE

WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN



.. THAT THERE EXISTS ONE GROUP BEYOND LORD AK RA'S REACH!







LORD AKIRA, IN  
HIS INFINITE  
MERCY, HAS  
DECREED THAT  
WE DISTRIBUTE  
FOOD  
TO YOU!



THANK  
YOU,  
LORD!

ALL HAIL TO  
LORD AKIRA!

HAIL!



FILTHY  
PIGS.



KETTER



IN THE NAME  
OF OUR GREAT  
LORD AKIRA...




YES!  
YEE!

LINE  
UP!

YEE!







AH, BUT ONCE YOU'RE  
NATURALIZED, MASTER TETSUO  
WILL SEE TO IT YOUR FATHER'S  
LEG IS HEALED.




BUT...



NO!

A PRETTY LITTLE  
GRL LIKE YOU  
SHOULDN'T HAVE  
TO WAIT IN LINE  
FOR GLOP LIKE  
THAT.




I'LL TAKE  
YOUR FATHER  
SOMETHING  
NOURISHING.

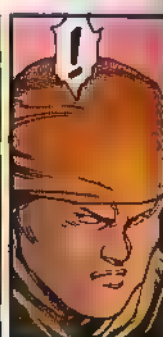
BUT, I  
JUST

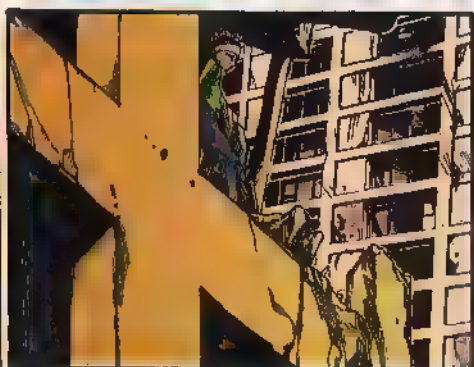
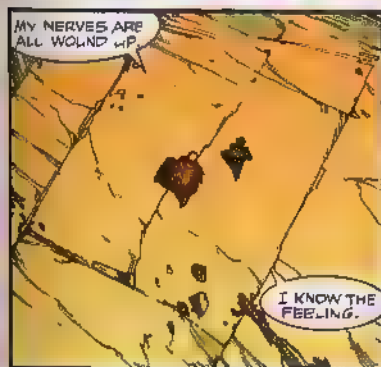
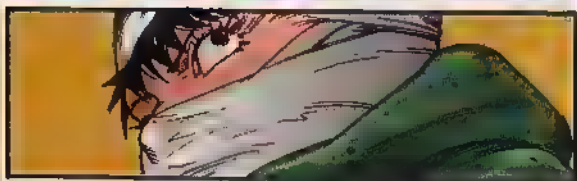


PLOP

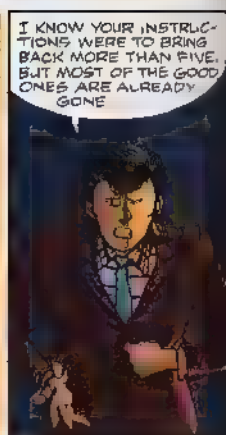
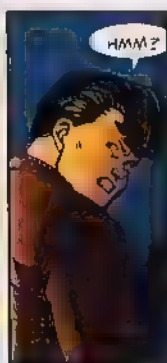
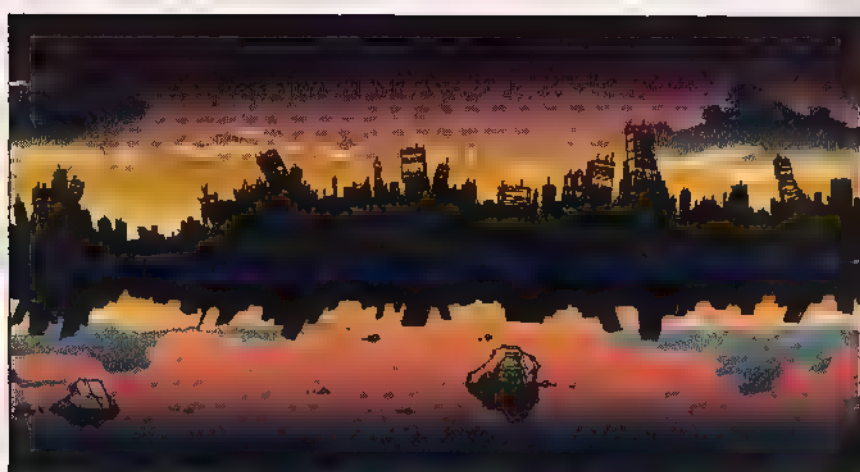


YOU  
CAN SERVE  
OUR EMPIRE.  
YOU  
CAN  
SERVE MASTER  
TETSUO.  
DO  
YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
ME?







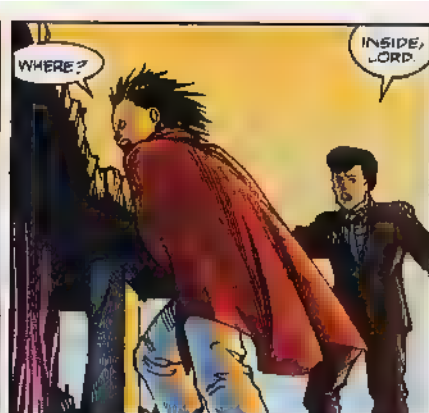




HOW MANY ARE THERE?



THREE OF THEM.



WHERE?

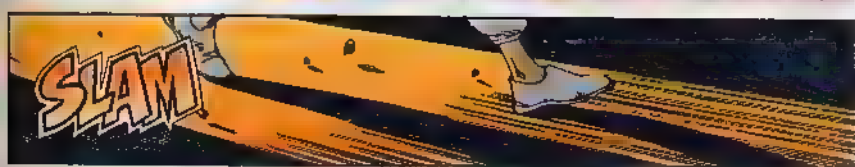
INSIDE, LORD.



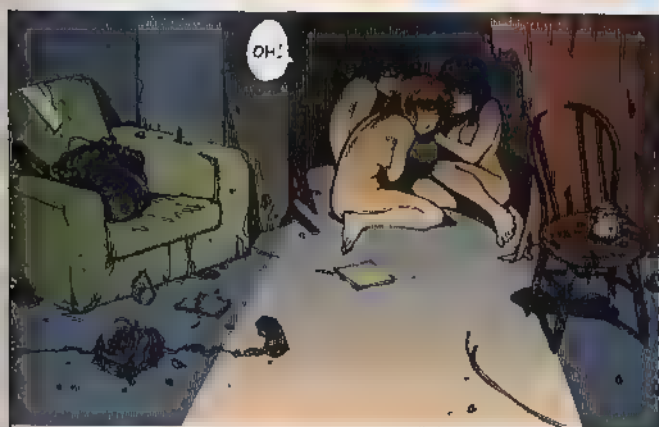
MASTER TETSUO, PLEASE, BE GENTLE WITH THEM SOME OF THEM ST LL HAVE FAMILIES

PLEASE.

...TRY NOT TO KILL THEM

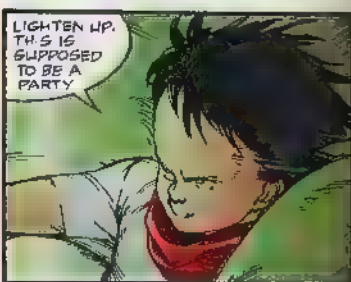
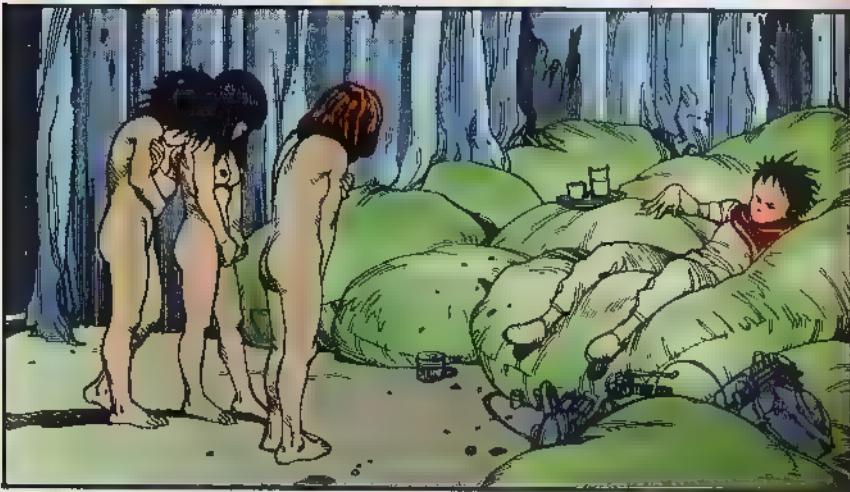


SLAM

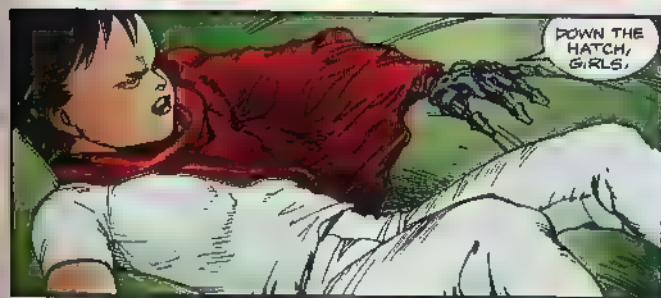
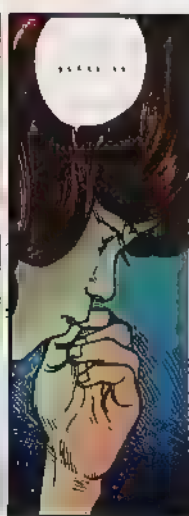
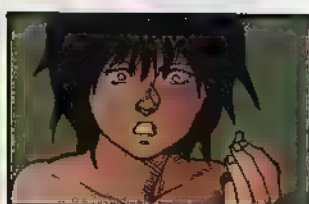


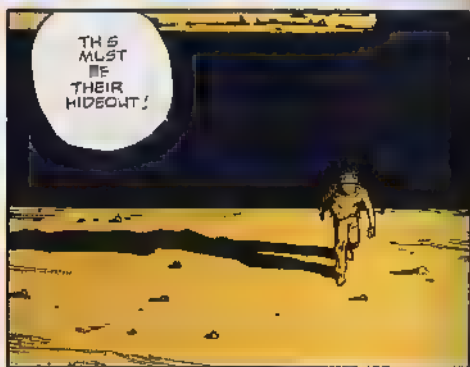
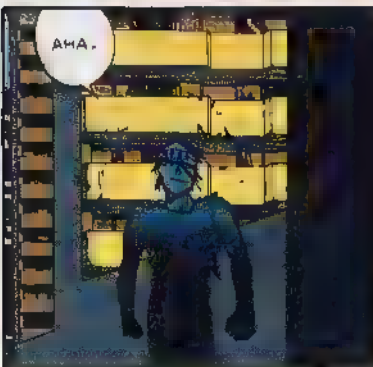
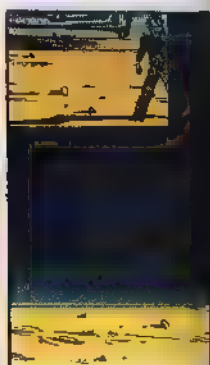
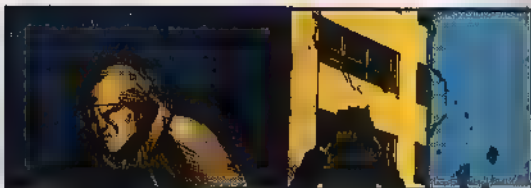
OH!

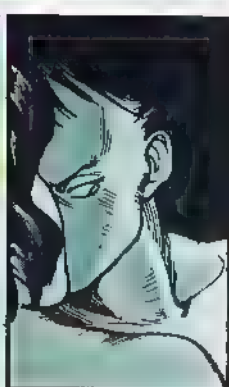
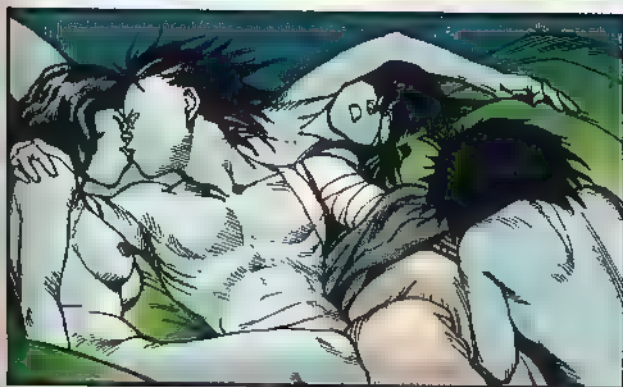
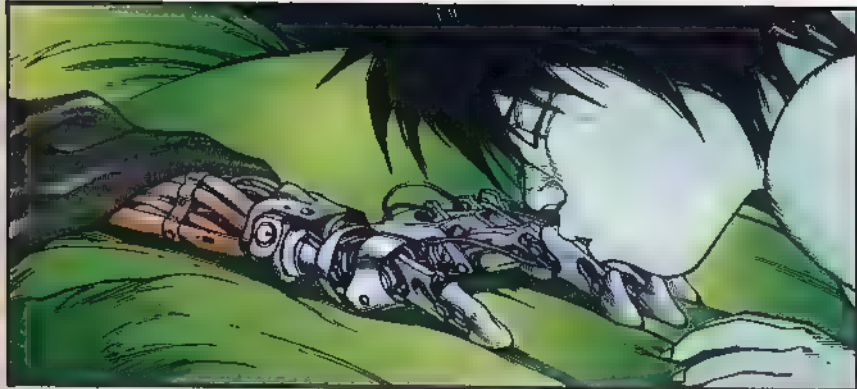




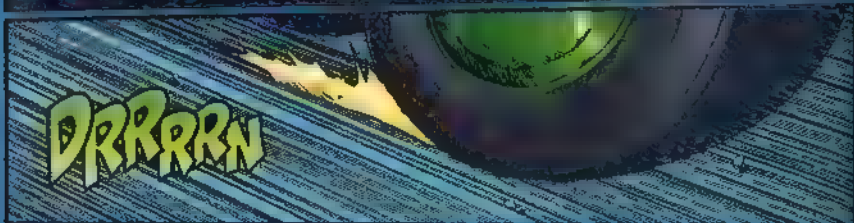
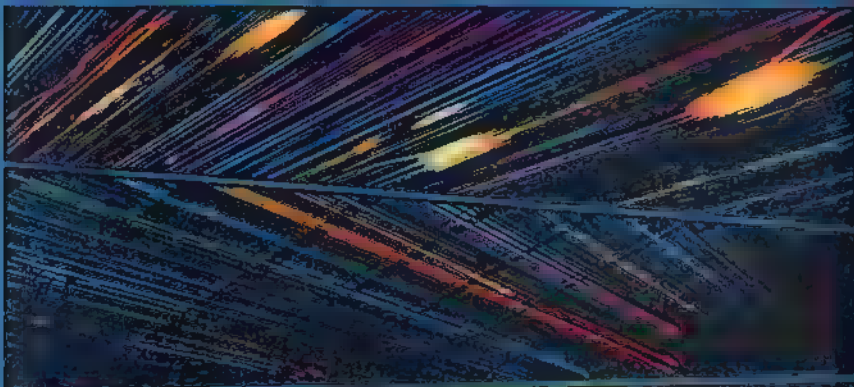
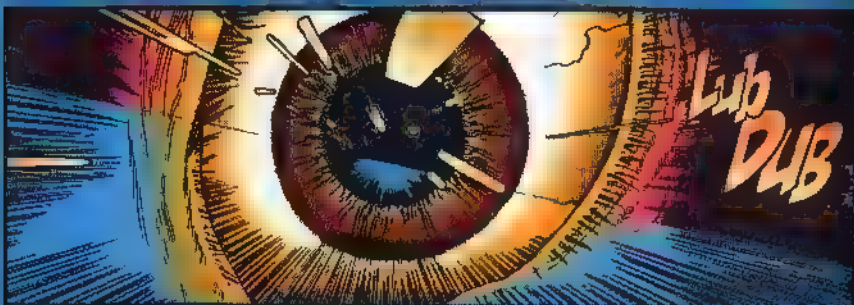
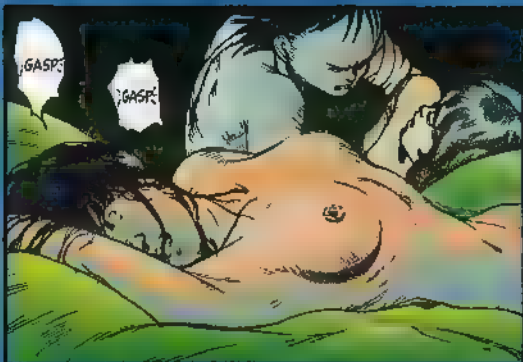


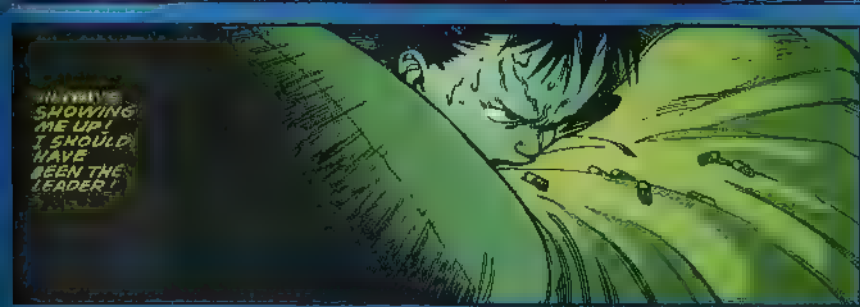
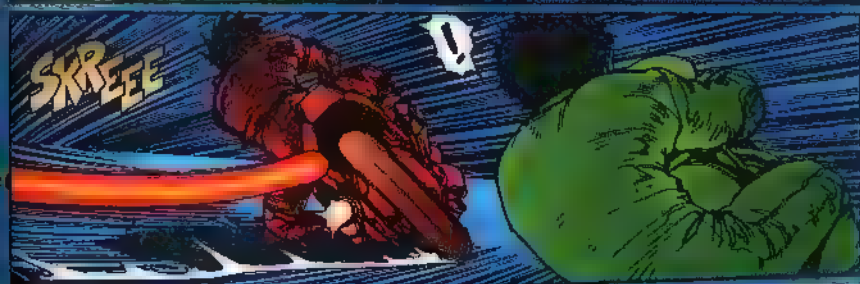
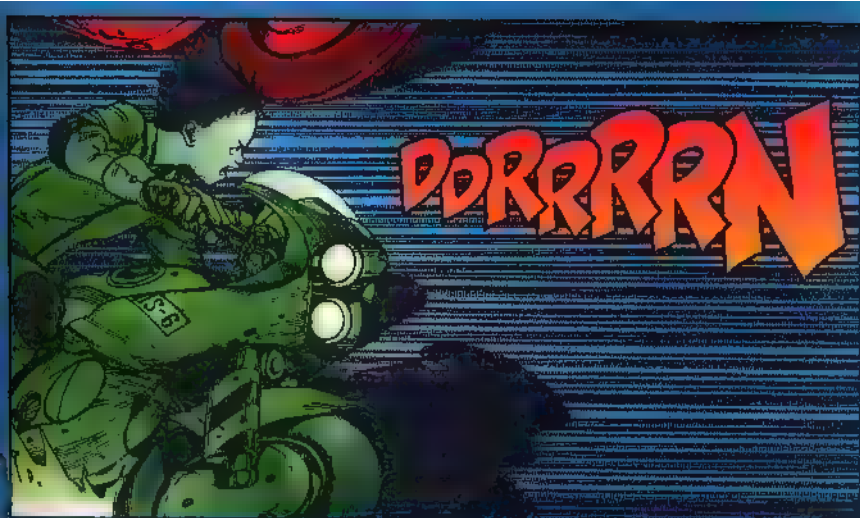


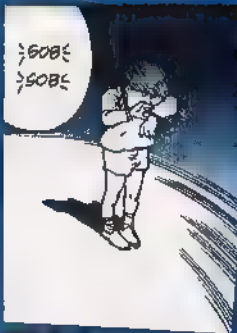












SOBE  
SOBE



SOME KID IS  
CRYING

OH, YEAH.



IT'S ME!

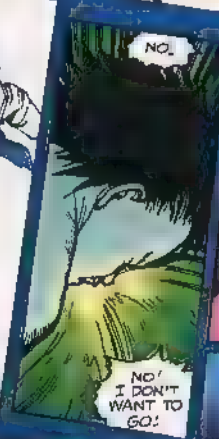
WHY AM I  
CRYING?



AND  
WHO ELSE IS  
THERE?



WHERE  
ARE YOU  
TAKING  
ME?



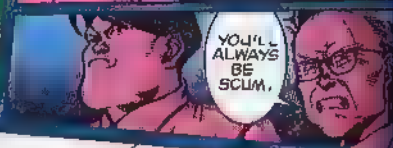
NO.

NO!  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
GO!

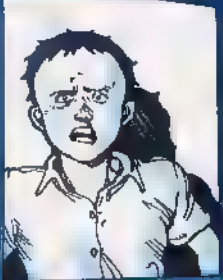


WE WILL  
TEACH YOU  
MANY  
THINGS

MOST  
IMPORTANTLY,  
WE WILL  
TEACH  
YOU...



YOU'LL  
ALWAYS  
BE  
SCUM.



BACK  
OFF, YOU  
PINHEADS!  
LEAVE MY  
FRIEND  
ALONE!



KANEDA!



MY NAME'S  
YAMAGATA



PRRN

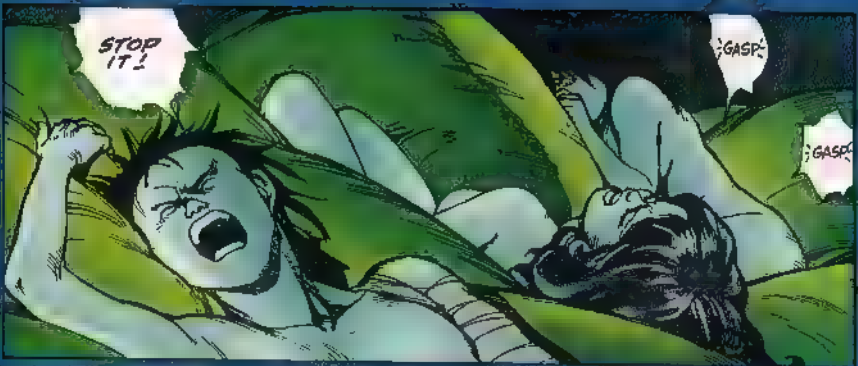




STOP  
IT!

GASP

GASP

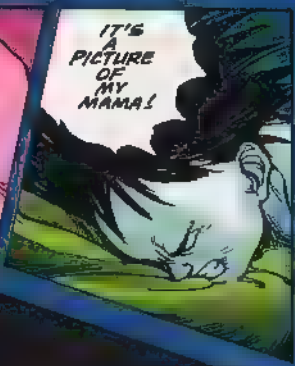


THAT'S  
MINE!

GIVE  
IT  
BACK!



IT'S  
A  
PICTURE  
OF  
MY  
MAMA!



SOB  
SOB



THAT'S  
NOT  
TRUE  
!

YOU  
PICKED  
IT UP  
IN  
THE  
STREET,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?!

WHO ARE  
YOU?  
HOW DID  
YOU  
KNOW  
THAT?!

WHAT?!

KAY!  
WHERE  
AM I?

KANEDA!

KANEDA!

NUMBER  
41!

THIS IS THE  
MOMENT I'VE  
BEEN WAITING  
FOR!

WHAT  
IS  
THIS  
?!

**BOOOM**

ALL PRAISE  
TO THE NEW  
TOKYO  
EMPIRE!

DON'T  
GIVE  
ME  
A  
THOUGHT!

THAT'S  
NOT  
TRUE.

WHAT  
IS  
THIS  
CRAP  
?!

IT'S GOTTA  
BE AN  
ILLUSION,  
ALL  
THIS IS  
REALLY  
JUST...

...THE  
MOON

NICE  
GOING...  
SETTING  
YOURSELF  
UP AS  
KING OF A  
GREAT BIG  
PILE OF  
JUNK!



# AKIRA: the movie

## AN UPDATE

Over the past two months, the English-language animated film **AKIRA**, as presented by **Streamline Pictures**, has opened in several cities around the U.S. **AKIRA** has received critical acclaim in many of these cities leading newspapers. Following are excerpts from **AKIRA** reviews

"Katsuhiro Otomo's **AKIRA** is the most expensive animated feature ever made in Japan (over 1 billion yen) and it's easily the most impressive as well. The two-hour film is adapted from Otomo's popular biweekly comic and, in the manner of contemporary Japanese comics, it is super colorful, explicitly violent, intellectually provocative and emotionally engaging with its Perils-of-Pauline pace. Otomo has condensed the narrative sprawl of the comics to provide coherence, though there's a bit of **BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II** incompleteness to the story. That hardly matters, since the film moves with such kinetic energy that you'll be hanging on for dear life.

"Of course, **AKIRA** is not a long cartoon, but an ambitious animated feature that can be seen as a parable of scientific responsibility and cosmic rebirth, or just an action-packed serial. Or it can be seen as a visceral example of the future of animation."

—THE WASHINGTON POST

"An impressive example of today's Tokyo animation style, **AKIRA** is a long way from Saturday morning cartoons."

—SAN FRANCISCO WEEKLY

"If an animated film can be called mammoth, then Katsuhiro Otomo's **AKIRA** is. Of course, all animated films consist of painted panels, but the futuristic **AKIRA** is full of huge metropolitan vistas and massive destructive effects."

—THE OREGONIAN

"**AKIRA** is an astonishing piece of animation. Otomo has drawn his film with such amazing attention to scale, perspective, motion effects and panoramic viewpoints that some segments of it are dizzying.

"Others are so gritty, corrosive or violent, you almost feel assaulted.

"The frequently large-scale themes of **AKIRA** are fascinating, and have the tone of a disturbingly near future, just the other side of whatever nuclear holocaust seems to await us."

—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"...the primary attraction is the artwork. the most expensive animated movie ever made in Japan, **AKIRA** offers exceptional detail, realistic lighting, and a palette ranging from DayGlo neon to dark-alley shadow (327 colors were used in all)—it makes **BLADE RUNNER** look like a filmstrip. Full of sometimes bloody ultraviolence and rampant destruction, this U.S. premiere is not for little kids, but it's indispensable to those with a serious interest in animated storytelling."

—WASHINGTON CITY PAPER

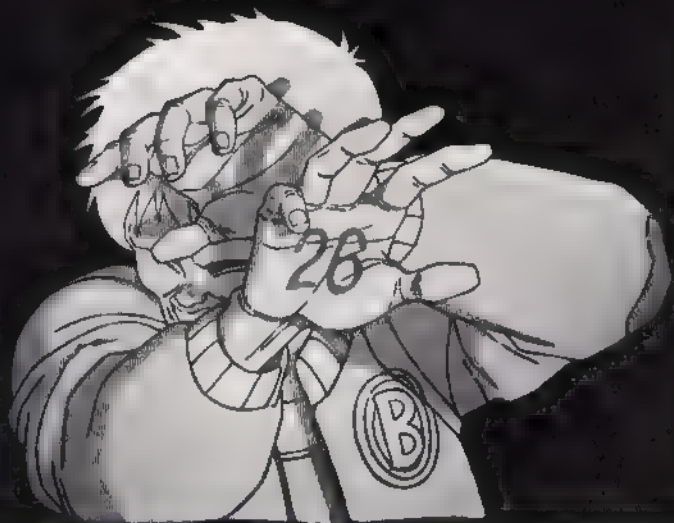
"Gang warfare, student protest, terrorism, military oppression, nuclear holocaust—these aren't the usual topics one thinks of in connection with cartoons.

"But then **AKIRA** is no ordinary cartoon."

—THE SEATTLE TIMES

"Are animated films really necessary? Why draw things that can just as easily be photographed? Generally, animators make objects perform stunts impossible anywhere but in their "magic" world. Yet sadly, most animated films are impoverished in imagination and theme. Even in a short film forged from line drawings, pieces of paper, or piles of soft clay, the secret of success is the story. And this is the secret of **AKIRA**."

—WILLAMETTE WEEK



"Readers of adult comic books should flock to Katsuhiro Otomo's revolutionary fable set in post-WWIII Neo-Tokyo.

"These post-punk punks are much like the pre-punk punks of **A CLOCKWORK ORANGE**, in a **BLADE RUNNER** setting designed by Otomo in smoothly animated, state-of-the-comic-art with bilingual visuals and an English soundtrack that's strangely devoid of music...

"Otomo provides a visual momentum that carries you forward, even when you don't know where you're going or why."

—SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN

"**AKIRA** represents state-of-the-art Japanese animation, with a blazing variety of colors and detailed background that reflect a great deal of creative imagination. The film can be savored for its visual quality alone."

—SEATTLE P-I

The English-language version of the animated film **AKIRA** will play in the following cities during the month of March:

**CINCINNATI, OH**  
**MOVIES REPERTORY CINEMA**

February 28—March 6

**DENVER, CO**  
**OGDEN THEATER**

March 7—10

**LOUISVILLE, KY**  
**VOGUE THEATER**

March 16—22

**AUSTIN, TX**  
**DOBIE THEATER**  
March 16—open ended

**SALT LAKE CITY, UT**  
**CINEMA IN YOUR FACE**

March 23—April 1

**CHICAGO, IL**  
**MUSIC BOX THEATER**

March 30—April 5

**LOS ANGELES, CA**  
**GOLDWIN PAVILION**

Mid-March

Also, look for **AKIRA** in the following theaters during the upcoming months:

**CHICAGO, IL: MUSIC BOX THEATER** (April 6 for one week)

**HONOLULU, HI: THE ACADEMY THEATER** (April 20-21)

**CLEVELAND, OH: THE CLEVELAND CINEMATECH** (April 26-28)

**NEW YORK, NY: THE NEW FILM FORUM** (summer, 1990)



**YASUMITSU SUETAKE**  
chief assistant to Mr. Otono

**MAKOTO SHIOSAKI**  
**SATOSHI TAKABATAKE**  
assistants to Mr. Otono

**HIROSHI HIRATA**  
designer • AKIRA calligraphy

**AKIRA SAITO**  
designer • Kodansha edition

**Kodansha Ltd**

**YOKO UMEZAWA**  
translation

**KOICHI YURI**  
**HISATAKA NISHITANI**  
editor • Kodansha edition

**YUKA ANDO**  
editorial coordinator • Tokyo

**NORIYUKI OKAZAKI**  
managing editor • New York

**Epic Comics**

**JO DUFFY**  
english adaptation

**STEVE OLIF**  
with the  
**OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW**  
colorists

**MICHAEL HIGGINS**  
letterer

**EDWARD MURF**  
production

**MARIE JAVINS**  
assistant editor

**MARGARET CLARK**  
editor

**CARL POTTS**  
executive editor



The world outside is a world gone mad. Suddenly, horribly it is evident what the law of the jungle means—only the strongest, or the well armed, survive. In this insane landscape, Kay and Chiyoko struggle to survive and protect their charges—Kiyoko and Masaru. These two small para-normal children whose unusual abilities helped save the women's lives are now the victims of their own powers which have started to destroy them from within. However, Kiyoko does gasp out that Number 19 can help them. With grim determination, the women set out across the city. They know time is running out and they know they must find Number 19.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



This scan produced by:

**X-FUTURE**

I love um

I buy um

I preserve um